



## Duke of Windsor Visits CCC Boys

Lined up at attention, the boys in the Rock Creek Park CCC camp are inspected by the Duke of Windsor. The duke hopes to establish similar camps in the Bahama Islands. With the duke are James J. McEntee, director of the CCC, and Lt. Hugo Ruggiero, camp commander. "A great pity they didn't start something like this in England," the duke told them.

Photos by Harris & Ewing



A whiff of the soup pot interests the duke. He took notes on the menu.



The duke examines boots worn by a CCC enrollee, asks whether they fit.

## Negro Doctors Barred From Newark City Hospital Staff

By HUGHES ALLISON

On 4-20-41, Stephen S...

No Negro physician has ever been a member of the staff of Newark City Hospital. Since March 6, 1941, I've been asking: "Why not?"

Newark City Hospital, a tax-supported institution, is intended for the New Jersey city's indigent sick and disabled and for emergency aid in accidents or sudden illnesses. It is the only "public" hospital in the city.

Approximately 25 per cent of the patients in Newark City Hospital are Negroes, according to recent surveys, although Negroes constitute but 10 per cent (about 45,000) of the city's total population. Moreover, Newark's Department of Health reports that mortality rates are far higher among the city's Negroes than among its whites.

I took my question, "Why no Negro physicians on the staff at Newark City Hospital?" to Dr. Thomas Bell, a Negro, a graduate of the Medical School of the University of Michigan and a long-time resident of Newark.

### Qualified to Answer

Dr. Bell was unusually qualified to answer my question. He has been a resident doctor on the staffs at Willard Parker Hospital and Riverside Hospital and has done ear, nose and throat work at the Vanderbilt Clinic of the Presbyterian Hospital in New York City. And according to my informants, Dr. Bell, over 10 years, has investigated practically every possibility of Negro professionals' being integrated into the staff at Newark City Hospital.

"The system of selecting staff members at Newark City Hospital," Dr. Bell told me, "is vicious and contrary to the principles of ethical medicine."

He showed me an open letter written by Dr. John A. Kenney to the "Hospital Boards and White Practitioners of Essex County," published in Essex County Medical Society Bulletin of April, 1939. It says:

"Especially shocking is the exclusion of Negro physicians and nurses from tax-supported hospitals. Institutions like the Newark City Hospital, operated and supported by a governmental unit pledged to racial equality, studiously exclude the physicians, internes and nurses of the very race which most needs the services of such hospitals."

Dr. Kenney, now at Tuskegee Institute's hospital, is the founder of the Community Hospital, the only Negro medical institution in New Jersey.

### Limited Facilities

Situated in Newark, Community, according to authorities there, has but 30 beds and correspondingly limited facilities which are unlikely to be expanded for a long time because of the poverty of the Negro populace supporting it. Negro physicians say it is the only hospital in the state which grants them full staff privileges.

Newark City Hospital has 700 beds served by a doctors' staff of 210 in all, with seven doctors on the house staff, 37 internes and residents, 70 graduate nurses, 100 student nurses, and 390 other employees.

On March 19, accompanied by the Rev. L. B. Ellerson, a Presbyterian minister, I interviewed the Newark City Hospital's medical director, Dr. Earl H. Snavely, in his office.

"What would you say about the competence of the Negro doctor in Newark?" I asked Dr. Snavely.

"The Negro physician in Newark," Dr.

Snavely replied, "is just as competent as the white physician in Newark."

"Then why no Negro doctors in City Hospital?" I inquired.

"Staff appointments are in the hands of the Medical Board, which is a closed corporation," he replied.

### Ratio Discussed

During the interview with Dr. Snavely, the ratio of Negro physicians to white physicians in Newark was discussed. In the strict sense of residence, which Dr. Snavely said was one pre-requisite to staff membership, there are about 25 Negro doctors and 1000 white doctors living in Newark.

Dr. Snavely implied that this 1-to-40 ratio might account for the absence of Negroes on the City Hospital staff.

However, including the Newark City Hospital and excluding the Community Hospital, 12 institutions in Newark have an aggregate of 1276 doctors on their staffs. Not one of these, Negro medical circles say, is a Negro physician.

I talked to Harold Lett, executive secretary of the New Jersey Urban League.

"The authorities of the hospital have deliberately and intentionally kept Negro physicians from being integrated into the staff there because of race prejudice," he said.

Dr. Mae MacCarroll, who is a Negro graduate of the Women's Medical College at the University of Pennsylvania, told me she had made several applications over a period of ten years to authorities at Newark City Hospital for staff membership. She said she had never received any kind of reply.

"Every physician looks forward to a hospital for development after medical school and internships. He or she, no matter what race, creed or color, isn't being selfish. It's in the interest of the public welfare that a doctor receive the necessary training that only a well equipped hospital can command."

Newark City Hospital is recognized as a Class A institution by the American College of Surgeons.

### Denied Privileges

Reliable physicians told me that Negro physicians were denied even courtesy privileges at Newark City Hospital.

I learned from lay people and professionals alike that telephoning to Newark City Hospital for an ambulance meant being asked by the operator there:

"Is the patient white or colored?" The City Clinic has separate days for Negro patients, I am informed.

For more than eight years a local organization, the Interracial Council of Newark, has been trying to interest Newark City Hospital authorities in democracy. I interviewed the council's president, Mrs. R. P. Milburn.

"In my opinion," Mrs. Milburn told me, "the authorities at Newark City Hospital, in their failure to appoint Negro physicians to the staff, have run contrary to the Civil Rights Laws of New Jersey, Chapter 247, Laws of 1935." This law provides that all persons in New Jersey "shall be entitled to full and equal accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges in all public places," including "public hospitals and clinics," regardless of race, creed or color.

Nineteen organizations, including the Housing Authority of the City of Newark, the Newark Physicians Association and the Greater Newark Industrial Union Council, have endorsed the Interracial Council's effort to open the doors of City Hospital to Negro professionals.